

Tips & Tricks for your iPod

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Chapter 1: Understanding the ipod craze

You have seen them everywhere – on the bus on the way to work, at the mall, at the gym. Advertisements for iPods and downloadable music and videos flood the TV, radio, and Internet. Part fashion accessory, part gizmo, and part entertainment system, iPods are gaining popularity at an amazing speed. Here are some of the reasons why.

The face of America is changing. Gone are the days of total segregation. With a few clicks of a mouse, you can speak to someone across the country or across the world. Families are a mix of races and cultures and backgrounds. Celebrities spread trends like wildfire. In the same evening, you might dress in Latino-inspired clothing to eat at a French restaurant and to see a Japanese-designed film. People no longer feel as much of the pressure to stay within their cultures but have the ability to branch out and try new things. Tastes in everything from music to religion are changed overnight.

At the same time, America loves high tech and high speed. We like fast cars and fast Internet connections and fast food. We use email, instant messaging, and walkie-talkie functions. Gone are the days when you would just drop a letter in the mailbox to a distant relative. We love any gadget that will someday make our lives better – even if it comes with a 300-page novel as an instruction manual. Information is available to us at the click of a button. In our homes you will find everything from cappuccino makers to vacuums that clean without you. Children are taught to use computers in preschool, and it is not unusual to see even elementary-aged children with cell phones.

We also like to make things our own. From our cell phones to our

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cars, we are all about the details. We like to choose shapes and colors and sizes and features. We like things that make us stick out from everyone else. We put specialized ring tones on our cell phones. We choose the detailing on our cars. Even down to our jewelry, almost everything we own is personalized.

iPods take advantage of all these trends. It is no wonder that it is constantly gaining popularity with old and young alike.

iPods allow us to mix our favorites. From our favorite movies to our favorite songs, we are in control of what goes in the memory. No longer do we have to listen to one type of music from one radio station when we are in the car. Bach or the Beatles, Fifty Cent or Faith Hill, we can everything on there. A push of a button and we have a play list that puts the 80s mix tapes to shame. Not even satellite radio can offer such variety at once. It is perfect to take on long car rides, to listen to at the office, or for your next party. With so much variety everyone can be happy. All of this and you do not even have to listen to commercials!

iPods fit into our busy lifestyles. Easy and fast to download, we can have the music or movie that we want when we want it. Your favorite music is just moments away without ever picking up your CD case. Your favorite movie is ready to play before you have opened a single DVD case. You can even download your favorite TV shows to watch at your convenience. The iPod's small size makes it easy to take with you anywhere. They fit easily into a purse, briefcase, or backpack. For a country on the run, they are ideal.

iPods are extremely easy to make our own. With a constant add on of accessories, you can get exactly the features and look that you want. Designer skins and cases give your iPod a personalized look and help protect. Armbands, neck straps, and belt clips let you carry your iPod with ease. Earphones and speakers let you keep your

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music all to yourself or share with an entire room. You can even decide if you want to charge your iPod from your car or a regular outlet.

With so many options, it is no wonder that iPod is the latest craze sweeping the nation.

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Chapter 2: Tips & Tricks for your ipod

Cool iPod Functions You Don't Know About

What is better than having an iPod? Finding out about cool new functions, of course. The evolution of the iPod has become a major trendsetter over the past few years. Even furniture and clothing manufactures are making iPod-friendly products, which makes carrying around your iPod easier without the risk of bending or cracking your screen.

With each generation of iPod, the size and look become new designs showing their glossy exterior and collections of sizes, and the superior amounts of gigabits generate more downloading power. This makes extreme amounts of music downloads possible. As each generation of iPods is born, new more improved functions flood the airwaves with intensity, clarity, and volume. Here are some awesome new iPod functions you may not know about.

The iPods new click wheel provides you with easy with window accessibility. By clicking the top of the wheel, there is a shuffle mode to play songs in a casual random order. You can also play, forward, rewind, and stop and pause—all located on the click wheel.

You can also learn how to duplicate hidden files from your iPod to complement your computer by right clicking on iPod and selecting tools the folder options. This takes you to the

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control panel and you can select view tab, hidden files click, show-hidden files, making all your files visible. The intent of this information is not to be used to steal music, only to copy music you previously purchased onto your computer.

Your iPod will play MP4 files, too. All you have to do is drag your ffmpegx on to the summary page and select MP4. Then click on the video tab and set the task to three hundred and twenty pixels click encode and drag your file into iTunes. This will allow you to view pictures as a slide show or a movie that you have taken from your digital camera.

Your iPod also includes a functional stopwatch and time zone clock utility. Your iPod has a small iTunes control that sits at the bottom of your screen. This permits you to use rewind, fast-forward, and ratings, pick play list, and add to favorites. The list saver function permits to back up and restore, so that you can move your library. You play lists, reinstall you operating system. In addition, use list saver to back up and restore your iPod. Use your “macs” built in text to speech to adapt any document web page or document into MP3, this utility also loads Word, PDF, RTF, Apple works, Text and HTML.

From the iPod functions in your menu bar, you can program your iPod for syncing and eject. You can sync your address book, calendars. You can purchase an optional dock, which you can use as a remote control for your iPod, which allows you to listen to music from across the room through your television or stereo speakers. You can sync your iPod to view

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pictures, which are on your iPod. It can hold around twenty thousand pictures.

There is an audio books feature, which allows you to look through over nine thousand book titles from the iTunes library to download and sync with your personal computer, iPod also features a book mark so you don't lose your spot while on the go. There are now parental control features, which will limit your child's use of podcasts, explicit language, and shared music limiting your child's access from other people who might have content your child may be interested in.

From audio books to calendars, games, clocks, alarms, exercise workouts, music contacts and photos, there is fun for everyone no matter your age. Entertainment has never been easier than it is today, nor has it been so convenient to do what you want to do when you want to do it.

There is so much potential that has evolved from the digital era. It is almost amazing what people can do at the touch of a button, or by speaking into a microphone giving a machine command that it obeys with out question. Maybe someday there will be iPods that allow us to tell them what song you want to hear and how long we want to hear it, or an iPod that gives us vocal directions, helping us get to our destinations.

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Tips to Storing Data on Your iPod

For the most part, your iPod is simply a device that plays stored data. The three main formats that you can save data on your iPod are: vCard, iCal or vCalendar, and Notes. In order for you to store data on your iPod, you need to have the iPod already connected to your computer. Now, if you open My Computer, you should see that your iPod is on there as IPOD. Not IHOP, IPOD. Double-clicking this icon will open up a folder. Within this folder are the sections where you are able to store data on your iPod. If you open the iPod Control folder, you will see your songs and iTunes information, like your playlists. The Notes folder is where your text files are stored. These text files can be read in your iPod's Notes section, hence the folder named Notes. If you want to, you can also create folders inside your main Notes folder if you wish to divide up your notes in some way. The Contacts folder is where all of your contacts information is stored.

Apart from these normal storage functions, you can also use your iPod as a storage drive. The drive will be a hard drive or a flash drive depending on the model of your iPod. Using your iPod as a storage device, you can store and transfer data files. Using your iPod as a storage device is simple. First, simply connect your iPod to the computer if it is not already. Then, if iTunes does not automatically open, go ahead and open it. Then open iTunes Preferences. If you are using Windows, click on the Edit option and then on Preferences.

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If you are on a Mac computer, you will simply just choose Preferences from the iTunes menu. Now you can click on the iPod button. For most of the iPod models, except the iPod shuffle, you will click on “Enable disk use” or on “Manually manage songs and playlists”. Either should allow you to use your iPod as a drive. By selecting “Manually manage songs and playlists”, iTunes will not update your iPod automatically.

However, if you wish to have iTunes automatically update your iPod, and then click on “Enable disk use” instead of “Manually manage songs and playlists”. If you are using an iPod shuffle, check the “Enable disk use” option and set your Storage Allocation slider to the amount you would like to be used by your audio files and the amount you would like to be used for your data files. The iPod disc icon should now appear on your desktop, as well as in Finder windows and in My Computer. If you double-click this icon and drag files from or to your iPod’s window, you can copy them. You are done; make sure to eject iPod before disconnecting it from the computer. Your iTunes library on your computer holds all of the music that you have encoded from your music collection. On the default settings, iTunes automatically copies songs from your library to the iPod. But, when you use your iPod as a storage device, you cannot see songs that iTunes copies from your iPod to the Finer or My Computer folder. This is normal for it to do, so do not be alarmed. Using the Finder or My Computer, you are not allowed to copy songs from your iPod to iTunes or to your computer. This synchronization is between your iPod and

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the computer and is only one-way: from the iTunes to your iPod.

If you would like to copy pictures from your iPod to the computer, make sure that your iPod is still in Disk Mode. If it is not, put it in Disk Mode. Now, if your iPod is still connected to your computer, open iTunes. Then, select your iPod from the Source list. At the bottom of the iTunes Window, you will find iPod Options, click on it. Check the "Enable disk use" option if it is not already. Now, iPhoto and/or Image Capture will be able to get pictures from your iPod.

These simple tips and directions will allow you to use your iPod with more versatility and will help you get the most out of your iPod.

Tips on How to Use your iPod as a Hard Drive

At some point most people have needed to transfer files from one computer to another. Floppy drives are virtually obsolete. Not all computers have a CD burner and unless you use a re-writable CD you can only use it for files one time. So how can you do it? Ever thought of using your iPod? Few people realize the iPod can be used for much more than listening to songs and watching videos. The device can also be used as a hard drive to store every

kind of file you will need. Here are a few tips on how to use your iPod as a hard drive.

First, connect your iPod to your computer. Once the iPod has been connected open the iTunes window. Then open the iPod preferences window. In the iPod preferences window you can select "Manually manage songs and playlists" or "Enable disk use." If you would like to use your iPod for disk storage and you would still like for iTunes to automatically update your iPod library then choose "Enable disk use". This will allow your iPod to store files and play music.

Once you have set up your iPod to store files you can drag the files you want to store into the iPod window. When you have finished moving the files click the iPod eject button in the lower-right corner of the iTunes window. The iPod screen will show "Ok to disconnect" when it is safe to unplug it.

You can also use your iPod as a hard drive without using the iTunes window. First connect your iPod to the computer that has the files you would like to store. Then go to My Computer. You will see the iPod listed as an available drive. Double click the drive and copy the files you want to store into the root folder. Alternatively, you can create a separate folder for storing your files to avoid confusing your files with the files the iPod needs to operate. Do not put anything in the folder labeled iPod_Control because that folder contains music and video files and information required for the iPod

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to read music and video files correctly.

If you are using your iPod without having iTunes running you will need to manually disconnect the iPod from the system. Open My Computer. Browse to the drive that lists your iPod. Select the drive and drag it to the recycle bin. Once the drive has been deleted, you can safely detach your iPod from the computer. Avoid detaching your iPod from the computer with going through these steps first. Doing so can result in corruption of important files.

The iPod shuffle can also be used for storing files. Using a USB flash drive does this. To configure the iPod shuffle to store files, open the iPod preferences window from within iTunes. In the iPod preferences window use the slider to choose how much of the drive you would like to use for storing files and how much you would like to use for storing songs. You can add files in two ways. The first way is to drag and drop the icon for the file you would like to add onto the iPod folder in the iTunes screen. The second way is to navigate to the iPod drive through My Computer and add file. If you have the file open you can save it to the iPod by going to File, Save As. In the location window click on My Computer and select the iPod drive.

The iPod shuffle must be removed in a similar way to a regular iPod. If you are working through the iTunes window click the iPod eject button in the lower-right corner of the window. When the iPod screen shows “Ok to disconnect” you can safely remove your iPod. You can also remove the

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iPod shuffle if you are not working in iTunes by deleting the drive icon from the My Computer folder. As with a regular iPod, be careful not to detach the iPod shuffle from computer without first removing it in one of the two ways described above.

Hassle no more with emailing files to yourself in order to access them from another location. As long as you have your iPod and the USB cord or your iPod shuffle, you can access and store all the files you need.

How to Duplicate Those iTunes to a Standard PC

Do you want to copy tunes from your iPod to your PC but don't know where to begin? It's really quite simple, if you have a CD or DVD burner, an external hard drive or even a network drive at work that you can use. You can drop off your music collection and then copy it to your new computer, that's probably your best bet. If you don't have any of those available to you at work (or you don't feel comfortable putting your music collection on an office drive) - you're in luck. Your iPod IS an external hard drive in and of itself.

You can't copy songs from your iPod through iTunes, but there are a few free or shareware programs that can do it for you. Here's a quick rundown of some options:

- PodUtil works on Mac or PC, and is shareware which

you can download and use for free if you can endure little pop ups that bug you to pay for a full license at 10J. PodUtil is a shareware utility for copying songs from your iPod to your computer. PodUtil is compatible with Mac OS X and 9.x, and Windows XP and 2000

- IPodAgent is free, Windows only, and requires Microsoft's free but big .NET framework installed to work. iPod Agent is a utility for managing contacts, appointments, mail, notes, tasks, RSS feeds, weather and more. It is not a music manager but works alongside iTunes to enable you to transfer songs from your iPod to a PC. iPod Agent requires Windows XP, 2000, or 98 and Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1.

- EphPod for Windows or Linux works well. EphPod is free and has been in development some time now.

Install one of those programs on your current computer and make sure it works for you and your iPod. Then, when you get your new work computer, set it up and get copying. It doesn't get much easier than that!

The options are a bit different depending on your operating system. All you have to do is find what works with yours according the list below. Voila!

Mac OS and Windows compatible:

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iPodRip supports recovering your songs and playlists, playback of audio files and much more. iPodRip is compatible with Mac OS X 10.2 and later, and Windows XP and 2000. iPodRip is shareware and will run without limitation for 10 sessions before registration is required. This way you get a free trial period of sorts. The iPod Music Liberator is a full-featured music-management utility that allows you to copy music from your iPod to a Mac or PC. It supports Mac OS X and Windows XP, 2000, NT and 98. iPod Access lets you copy music from your iPod to a Mac or PC. It supports Mac OS X 10.1 or later and Windows XP or 2000.

Mac OS only:

PodWorks allows you to copy songs from any Mac iPod to any Mac running OS X 10.2 or later. A free trial version (30 day time limit, 250 song copy limit) is available. Senuti reads the playlists on your iPod and allows you to transfer them back to your computer. Senuti is donationware and requires OS X 10.3 or later.

Windows PC only:

The free version of Anapod Explorer allows you to view your iPod and copy files to it as a device in Windows Explorer. The full version allows you to transfer files from your iPod to a PC. Anapod Explorer requires a PC-formatted iPod and Windows XP, 2000, ME or 98SE.

A program called CopyPod enables you to transfer your

music library from your iPod to your PC without losing ratings and playlists. CopyPod requires Windows XP or 2000.

XPlay provides a powerful Explorer-integrated drag-and-drop interface that makes transferring music to and from the iPod quick and simple. XPlay enables Windows users to use both Windows- and Mac-formatted iPods. XPlay requires Windows XP, 2000, ME or 98SE.

SharePod is a free utility that is stored and run from your iPod – just plug your iPod into a PC and run SharePod.exe. SharePod reads your iPod database and allows you to extract music files to your hard drive, either individually or by playlist. Supported iPods or Windows OS versions not listed.

Get More Life Out of your iPod's Battery

Rechargeable lithium-based batteries power most of our electronic devices from cell phones to iBooks, not to mention the very popular iPods. But with so much demand of these electronic devices that use this type of battery, does any one really take the time to find out how to maximize the life of these batteries? You take the time to buy these electronic devices every day and take the time to learn how to properly use them. But do you actually take the time to learn how to properly make the life of the battery work as long as you can before you have to break down and buy a

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replacement battery? In addition, as everyone knows, most of these rechargeable batteries are not cheap. It is actually more economical to learn right from the beginning the proper steps in extending the life of the battery.

Some of the first models of iPods that were introduced did not have a battery pack that could easily be replaced by the consumer. It came with an enclosed battery pack that made it only possible to open by virtually breaking your iPod. Many other iPod knock offs also had similar enclosed battery packs. With this being a problem for some consumers, Apple, the maker of the iPod, would not even consider replacing these worn out batteries. Apple believed that the consumer should buy either a brand new iPod or a used one.

This is where third-party battery replacement kits hit the market. Apple, being competitive as they usually are, decides to announce a program that would replace worn out batteries. But, of course, with all the third party competition out there that are selling these battery replacement kits, this makes it very possible for the consumer to not only find new replacement batteries, but to also find it cheaper than they would through Apple. This is not to mention the fact that it would have more capacity than the standard battery that Apple originally came with.

When extending the life of your iPod batteries consider the following. First of all, you want to make sure that the most current iPod software is being used. You want to only use

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the “hold” switch and make sure to keep it at room temperature.

In addition, you want to make sure that your “hold” switch is set on your iPod and the remote when it is not in use. So, if any of the buttons are accidentally bumped if it’s in your pocket or a bag, it will not come on.

One of the biggest issues is keeping your iPod at room temperature as much as possible. If, for some reason, it ever gets left out in the cold, make sure it is completely warmed up first before turning it back on. Also, if you find that your iPod still will not come on, plug it into power adaptor and press the menu button and play/pause button until the Apple logo appears onto the screen.

The iPod should also never be left in a vehicle in extremely hot weather or that is parked in direct sunlight. Also, remember that the iPod should never be left in any kind of direct sunlight for any long period of time.

Charging the battery can also affect the life of the battery. Lithium ion batteries pack in a high power of density, which maximizes the life of the battery and is conveniently lighter. Lithium batteries are rechargeable. Lithium ion batteries are generally good for 300-to 500-charge/discharge cycles.

A brand new battery is going to hold a much better charge for a longer period of time compared to a slightly older battery that isn’t going to hold as good a charge for any

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long period of time. Most users won't even really notice this because it is such a gradual decrease.

Fast charges can return the battery back to 80% of its capacity in about an hour. But it is still going to take 4 hours to fully charge the battery. When the iPod is in sleep mode it is still using current and will slowly drain your battery. If the iPod is kept at the recommended temperatures, the battery should empty in about 14 to 28 days.

There are a couple of tips people do not even think will affect the battery. One is charging the iPod while in carrying case or cover. Also, always fully charge the battery even if it isn't going to be used right away. Make sure to always use pause when not in use. If left playing, the iPod will keep playing until the battery is completely dead. Use the sleep mode to save the life of your battery. You can set up this feature by pressing the play button till the iPod simply goes to sleep.

Backlighting is also a feature that can use up a lot of battery life. This is a feature that you should try to avoid using. It should also be set up so it is not used. You can do this by choosing the settings and then going to backlight timer and choosing off. The equalizer setting is also another feature that will drain your battery. To save on the battery set this to off also. Choose settings, then equalizer and then off.

If you can avoid changing tracks by pressing the previous/rewind buttons or the next/fast forward buttons,

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this will also help retain the life of your battery. When you change track by using these buttons the iPod has to turn on its hard drive and open songs. This uses a lot of currency. Try to only use compressed songs. They seem to work the best. If these files are large and not compressed, you may want to compress them or change them to different files. The best files to use are MP3's or AAC when importing to iTunes. Also consider breaking long songs into shorter tracks so the size of the file is smaller.

DJ Tips using your iPod

With all the things you can already do with an iPod, it wasn't long before DJs started using them at work. Yes, you can now use your iPod to DJ! One of the products that help you do this is the iDJ Mixing Console by Numark. Numark is the leading company in DJ products and accessories, so it was no surprise when they put this product on the market. With the ability to dock two iPods at once, users have available to them thousands of songs for their mixing pleasure.

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When you are ready to DJ, The iDJ transforms your iPod from an already feature-packed mp3 player into a source playback device. The console itself is the pearl white that iPod owners are all too familiar with, and when docked, the iPods blend seamlessly together as if they were meant for each other all along. Some of the features of the iDJ include; aluminum panels, precision switches and knobs that give a tight, precise feel, and an edge bumper with a soft touch that acts as both a protectant and a visual enhancement to the console. The iDJ also incorporates a microphone input with both eight- and quarter- inch headphone outputs. The iDJ also comes with a USB port that is able to connect to both a PC and Macintosh computer. The iDJ is able to incorporate the recording capabilities of the iPod. Lastly, the iDJ comes with a turntable spindle receptacle that allows the user to place the iDJ in a limited space location.

Numark's iDJ comes with two iPod docking stations that can be used with any iPod model. With large iPod navigation control, it is easier to search through songs quickly. The two-channel mixer provides the DJ with a three-band equalizer that has gain control for each of the channels. The microphone input is also equipped with a level and tone control. Each channel also comes with line inputs for connecting other devices, like a CD player. The large knobs of the iDJ control are big enough to give the user easy play control while DJing. The output side of the iDJ comes with a

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master LED output meter for confirmation of audio signal's and a crossfader, of professional quality, that has fader start control for alternating between the two audio channel signals or for blending. In addition to these features, the Numark iDJ console comes with a cue tone and a cue source selector for managing your music sources. The headphone outputs are able to accommodate both professional grade headphones, and consumer style headphones, so users of all levels are able to use the iDJ. The iDJ comes with Master and Record outputs, if you would like to connect to external recorders or to sound systems. For those with iPod Photo models, the iDJ comes with an S-Video output for the complete multimedia experience. With a price tag of $399, both the experienced DJ and a newbie can enjoy the Numark iDJ Mixing Console.

If you would like something a little less expensive and not as many bells and whistles, there is a software program just for you! The MixMeister Express 6 is a powerful tool that allows the user to make professional sounding mixes out of their music files with a minimum amount of effort. The MixMeister Express 6 lets the computer handle the hard part and is able to mix a CD in minutes. Don't fret iPod enthusiasts; you can load your newly mixed songs onto your iPod for your enjoyment. Even the most novices DJ is able to make professional quality mixes, with beat mixed transitions between your songs to make mix sound great. Or, make the song slower or faster to achieve the desired tempo. You can even add special effects that allow the user more ways to blend songs together. Coming in at a price of only $49.95

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anyone is able to create great sound mixes for their listening pleasure.

These two devices; the Newmark iDJ and the MixMeister Express 6 give DJ's the ability to transform their whole style and make it much easier to carry equipment around. The DJ's of the twenty-first century can now make their mixes stand out above the rest.

How to Get your iPod Connected to your Home Entertainment System

The iPod is one of the newest ways to listen to your music. If you have a little computer savvy, you can purchase an iPod and start downloading all of your favorite songs directly to your iPod. If you want to take your music with you wherever you go, that is what the iPod is all about. That is exactly what it is designed for. Simply plug in your ear buds, clip on the iPod and go. You have discovered the unique portability of the iPod. However, iPods are not just for on the go. There are ways you can connect you iPod to your favorite home stereo equipment so your and your friends can enjoy all of your favorite tunes, too. Want to connect your iPod to your home stereo and haven't a clue how to get started? Here is a look at the basics of how to solve this puzzling problem. The solution could be as easy as

a few cables and a Dock connector.

Wouldn't it be convenient to plug in your iPod to your home stereo when you are home with the stomach virus or when snow is piled high outside your door? Plug it in while you are secluded indoors and watch and listen on the big screen to your favorite music and videos. Or maybe you are giving a big party and want everyone to enjoy all your favorite music downloads. With a little instruction and some equipment, you will soon be listening to your iPod music at home or on the go.

You can use your headphone jack to connect your iPod to your home or car stereo using third-party stereo adapters. In order to connect your iPod to a home stereo, you will need a 3.5 mm RCA adapter cable to connect the iPod and the sound input of the amplifier. Most of the equipment you will need for this process can be found at electronic stores. To keep from blowing out the speakers on your amplifier, turn the volume down to less than half on your iPod. Use your stereo's control panel to control the volume to the desired level. Your iPod may need to be set higher than half, depending on your particular stereo, so you can get a reasonable volume through the outside speakers.

After you have done this, you are ready to connect your iPod to your car stereo. There are a few things you will need. First, you will need a 3.5 mm extension cable with stereo connectors on each end plugged into the aux input of your car stereo. You can also use a cassette adapter if your car

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stereo does not have a sound input jack. Both of these items can be found at car accessory retailers. Next, if your iPod has a dock connector, you may be able to connect to some cars with a special adapter.

The Universal Dock is just that, universal. With the Universal Dock, you can do a variety of things.

First, connect the dock to your computer with the cable that came with your iPod. Now place your iPod in the dock to sync and charge the battery. You will not have to reach behind the computer to plug it in anymore. Connect the dock to an electrical outlet using an iPod Power Adapter, and then place your iPod in the dock to charge the battery. Connect the Dock to a stereo or speakers using an iPod AV Cable or a stereo audio cable to play music from iPod. Control playback from a distance using the Apple Remote. Display photos on a TV or other video device using an iPod AV Cable or S-video cable if you have an iPod with a color display. Display videos on a TV or other video device using an iPod AV Cable or S-video cable if you have an iPod with video capability.

The Universal Dock

The Universal Dock is the ultimate iPod docking solution. Any model of iPod with a dock connector can fit perfectly into a single Universal Dock through the use of interchangeable inserts called Dock Adapters. You simply insert the Dock Adapter that fits your particular iPod model,

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and then plug in your iPod. When you want to connect a different-size iPod, simply pop out the Dock Adapter and insert a new one.

The iPod Universal Dock package includes adapters for five iPods. New iPods will include adapters for that model, and other adapters are available separately.

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Chapter 3:Going DVD or Video with your ipod

iPod Video – A General Overview

The iPod is revolutionizing the personal entertainment experience. When the iPod was first introduced, it only played music. Then, it added a color display and the ability to store and view photos. Next, came podcasts similar to newscasts, but designed for the iPod listening experience. In its latest editions, iPod gives users the ability to download and watch their favorite music videos. With video viewing capabilities, iPod has increased the width of the LCD screen to 2.5 inches to enhance the viewing experience.

The new iPod video isn't limited to playing music videos. You can watch slideshows of your photo memories complete with music, video podcasts, television shows, and movies. There are over 25,000 podcasts, 2,000 music videos, as ABC and Disney television shows available for download from the iTunes Music Store. You can download them to your Mac or PC and sync them to your iPod. An audio cable can be used to play the music from your stereo or an S-video cable to play on your TV.

Just like you can create music playlists on previous generation of iPod, you create video playlists to group videos by genre or any other category you wish. With the ability to

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store over 150 hours of videos you can create a playlist of all your favorite videos to watch on a plane, on lunch break, in the park, or variety of other places. If you stop in the middle of a video, the iPod bookmarks where you left off and starts there when you replay the video.

iPod video supports two video formats. The first format, H.264 video, supports up to 768 kilobytes per second and a picture size of 320 pixels wide by 240 pixels high (the exact size of the iPod screen). The iPod can play H.264 files at 30 frames per second. Applications must be encoded with the Baseline Profile. Audio should be encoded as AAC up to 120 kilobytes per second, 48 kilohertz, in stereo or mono. Files can be QuickTime movie or MPEG-4 movie file with the extensions .m4v, .mp4 and .mov.

The second format is MPEG-4 video. This type supports up to up to 2,500 kilobytes per second, and a picture size of 480 pixels wide by 480 pixels high. This resolution is three times as many pixels as the iPod is able to display. This means the iPod will have to shrink the file in order to display it on the screen. MPEG-4 files are typically larger resulting in less storage space for additional songs and movies. Audio encoding and file extensions are the same as H.264 video specifications.

While the H.264 offers higher quality video and smaller file size, it takes a longer time to covert the file to a compatible iPod video. Because of the higher pixel size, MPEG-4 formats are ideal if you plan to watch videos on your TV.

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There are several ways to determine if a video can be played on your iPod. Open iTunes with your iPod connected and drop the file into your iPod library. If the file is copied, then it is compatible. To do this, you will have to make sure that you have selected to manually manage songs and playlists in the iPod tab of your iTunes preferences. Another way to test compatibility is to add the video to the iTunes library. Once it has been added, right click the video and select "Convert selection to iPod". If it is already compatible, iTunes will give you a message saying so. If it is not compatible, it will be converted into a compatible format.

You can add videos to your iPod from any computer that has iTunes installed. If your iPod was originally formatted for PC you can add videos from Mac or PC. If your iPod was formatted for Mac you can only add videos from another Mac computer. If you have QuickTime Pro you can easily convert movies and videos into a format that is compatible with your iPod.

The iPod video includes a few other amenities in addition to its video capabilities: a screen lock to keep sensitive information private, a world clock displaying the time in major world cities, and a stopwatch.

The DVD Goes iPod
Special DVD to iPod &PSP Software
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Since the latest versions of iPod enable video viewing, it only makes sense that the next step would be to create a way for DVDs to be viewed on the device, as well. There are freeware utilities that exist to allow you to transfer DVDs to your hard drive and then import them onto your iPod for viewing. Adding the videos to your iPod library will make video storage while traveling much easier.

Transferring DVD to iPod, for the most part, involves taking the content from the DVD, also called "ripping", adding it to your hard drive, then copying it from your hard drive you your iPod via iTunes. There are several different utilities that allow you to do this. Here are some overviews for the most commonly used utilities.

One of the most frequently used utilities is HandBrake. To use HandBrake first put the DVD into your DVD drive. Then launch the program. Once the program has launched it will scan the disk. Sometimes the disk cannot be read due to special app protection. In this case you will receive a message saying, "no valid title found". After the program has read scanned the disk, it will display a list of titles. The titles will include all the viewable files that are on the disk: the movie, any documentaries, deleted scenes or other extras. Select the file you wish to rip. If you cannot locate which file is the movie, it is usually the one that has the longest duration. After you have selected the file, next choose the appropriate settings and click the Rip button. The program will begin ripping the DVD. The process can take up to a few hours to complete. Once the program has

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completed, you can add the file to your iPod library.

Another utility is Xilisoft DVD to iPod Converter. This product can be purchased for $29.00 from the manufacturer's website. This utility allows you to compress files to any size and allows you to preview the ripping progress. Xilisoft is easy to use for beginners, but also includes various setting controls so that the product is great for veterans as well.

There are several other utilities available for converting DVDs to a format that can be viewed on the iPod. To find more of these utilities, you can do an Internet search for "Convert iPod to DVD". This will give you links to various utilities. You can select the one that has the ease of use and price range you desire.

Since DVD files are so large, it is best to store them on 30 and 60GB iPods. If you use an iPod shuffle or an iPod with a lower storage limit, you may not be able to store many videos, if you are able to store any at all. You should also be aware that the more DVDs you store on your iPod, the fewer songs you will be able to store.

There are still legal implications involved with copying DVDs to iPod. Ripping the content from videos by bypassing the copyright-system used on DVDs and is illegal under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. However, the law doesn't specifically state that it is ok to copy the content from your own personal collection for your own personal use. It may

seem that you are well within your rights as owner of the DVD to copy the content to a portable viewing device. There have been some court rulings that have said DVD copying is ok as long as it is not used for infringement purposes. However, the Motion Picture Association of America holds that it doesn't matter the reason, any content ripping from DVD violates the DMCA. Since the law does not specifically state whether DVD copying is legal if used only for personal reasons, it is necessary for each user to access their views. Many people believe that copying DVDs for personal reasons is legal until there are laws that state otherwise.

Perhaps in the near future DVDs may be available in a digital format that can be purchased and downloaded directly from the Internet to your iPod without using a third-party utility. For now, you will have to use a utility to rip the content and then add to your iPod.

Translating Video for Your iPod
Special DVD to iPod & PSP Software
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There are several methods of translating videos for viewing on iPod. You can add video that you have downloaded from the Apple iTunes store, as well as video that you already have stored on your computer. The methods are fairly inexpensive or in some cases free, and range in complexity to use and time required.

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One of the easier ways to translate video for your iPod is to convert the file within iTunes. iTunes is included on the iPod installation disk and is a necessary component for adding videos to your iPod even if you choose not to use it for conversions. To use iTunes to translate video first add the video to your iTunes library. A progress bar will display at the top of the program. Once the video has been added, right click it and select Convert Selection for iPod. If the video is compatible it will be added directly to your iPod. Otherwise, if the video is not already compatible it will be converted to a H.264 format video and then added to your iPod. iTunes will keep the video proportional to its original dimensions and will not stretch it. In most cases the dimensions will be 320 pixels wide by 240 (or fewer) pixels high.

QuickTime Pro is another of the easier methods of converting video files to an acceptable iPod format. It is available for $30 and includes built in export options for iPod. It supports a limited number files types. To determine if a file can be exported first try to open the file with QuickTime. If the video can be opened with QuickTime, then it can be exported to your iPod. To export, click File on the menu bar. Select "Export" then "Movie to iPod (320 x 240)" and click Save. If the file is large it could take several hours to export. Also, H.264 format files take longer to encode. This export method also works for Apple applications built on QuickTime such as iMovie and Final Cut Pro.

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iSquint is a software designed to convert video files to compatible iPod format and is available to download for free. This software supports a variety of file types: MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, WMVs, and AVIs to name a few. To covert files, drag and drop them into the iSquint window and select either Optimize for iPod or Optimize for TV. Optimize for iPod ensures the file will be encoded in a format that is best for viewing on iPod. The video will be no larger than 320x240 pixels. Optimize for TV encodes the file in the largest format possible for quality video output.

AVS Video Converter is available for Windows only. A trial version can be downloaded for free. However, the free version will cause a watermark to appear throughout the video. The program can be purchased for $30. The advantage of using this program is that it supports a number of file formats that QuickTime does not. To translate video, launch the program. Select the file type MOV, QuickTime File Format. Choose the file you wish to translate from the file selection screen. Next, select the output location. Adjust the settings according to the iPod file specifications. Once you have adjusted the settings click Convert Now. Avoid using your computer during the conversion, as processor performance will be affected. Once the file has finished converting, you can drag and drop it into your iTunes library or directly onto your iPod folder if you have selected Manually Manage Files.

You can add DVDs using a program called HandBrake that can be downloaded and used for free. The application rips

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DVD content and converts it to MPEG-4. To rip the DVD put the disc into your DVD drive and launch Handbrake. The program will scan the disk. If it cannot read the disk due to special app protection it will give you the message "No valid title found". Once the program has read the disk it will give you a list of titles similar to what you might see on the DVD menu screen. If you are unsure which title is the movie, select the file that has the longest duration. Select the appropriate settings and click the Rip button. It can take up to a few hours for the process to finish.

If you download your video directly from iTunes it will already be in the format needed to play on your iPod. Simply download the video. Then add it to your iPod library.

Going Video with Your Apple iPod

Special DVD to iPod & PSP Software
Only $1.99

The new video capable iPod has opened a new world of possibilities for people upgrading to the newest iPod model. However, for the most part, most do not know how to encode video to portable devices that require strict format requirements. For those who own a PSP, you might know a thing or two about encoding video. The PSP and iPod can only play MPEG-4 encoded videos with AAC audio tracks. There are limits to resolution and bit rates of the videos you can use on your iPod. It may seem that this video iPod thing

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is too complicated for a "normal" person to figure out, but here are some simple instructions on how to create video for your new video iPod:

If you have QuickTime Pro 7, you can make your own videos that will allow you to play them on your iPod. With QuickTime, you can easily convert your home videos or any other video into a format that your iPod will recognize. First, make sure that you are, in fact, running the newest version of QuickTime, 7 or later. After you have the latest version of QuickTime installed, go ahead and open it. Now, go ahead and choose the "Open File…" option from the File menu at the top left corner of the QuickTime window. Select the video or movie that you would like to play on your iPod and then click on the Open button. Now choose the "Export…" option from the File menu. You should see an option that says, "Movie to iPod (320x240)", click on the Save button. Now the Export progress bar will show you how far the export process has gone before being completed.

However, if your movie is longer, then it will take more time than if you had a shorter movie. Once the export has been completed, QuickTime Pro will put the new version of your movie on your desktop. This is the version that will be able to play on your video iPod. Go ahead and open up this new version of your movie and play it to make sure it looks the way it is supposed to. To get the video to your iPod, you will have to launch iTunes version 6. If you do not have iTunes 6, you should download it at this time. Now drag the new movie file into your iTunes library. Put it into a folder or a

playlist of your choice. Connect your iPod to your computer and synchronize it with your iTunes. Now if you would like to play the movie, select the "Videos" and then the "Movies" option from your video iPod's Main Menu. All available movies will be listed in alphabetical order. Go ahead and select the desired movie to play.

But what do you do if you want to watch episodes of your favorite television show from your iPod, on your TV? Don't worry; here are some quick and easy steps for you to be watching them in no time:

First, you will need some items, a video-capable iPod, and iPod-compatible video (like the one you just converted in QuickTime), an A/V cable (these can be bought off eBay if you do not have one for only five or six bucks). Now you can configure your iPod video options that will allow you to control how you export video. On the iPod Video Options screen, you can select how your video iPod will handle the video file playback. In order to open these settings, first choose Videos -> Video Settings on your main iPod menu. This screen will offer three different settings: TV Out, TV Signal and Widescreen. Adjust these setting to pick the video playback style that you need. Whenever your iPod plays a video file, it will either play the video on the built-in screen or it will transmit the video signal out of the microphone jack. To control which one your iPod does, go to the TV Out option. If you choose No, the playback will remain on the iPod. If you select, "Yes" then a TV signal is produced. If you would like the iPod to ask you every time it

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plays a video file, select the Ask option.

Now that you know how to convert video files on your computer into iPod compatible video, and you know how to get movies or video on your iPod to play on your television set, you should be set to go with your new video iPod.

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Chapter 4:Podcasting with your ipod

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Tips for Creating Your Own Podcast

What do you get when you mix the Internet with iPods? Podcasts! Podcasts have been referred to as the radio for the twenty-first century. It allows anyone to create his or her own podcast and to have a voice. For those who do not know what a Podcast is, it is an mp3 format file that can contain your own radio show. These Podcasts can easily be uploaded to a server, like a website, from a Really Simple Syndication (RSS). After uploading, people are then able to download your Podcast and listen to it on their own iPod or any other mp3 player.

Before you get started, think about some reasons why you might want to create your own Podcast. Maybe you would like to have your own show and do not have the ability to do so otherwise, you might be a musically talented person and want to recruit some fans by letting them listen to your music. Maybe you want to sell a multi-part speech but don't feel like going through all the hassle of making CDs, or labels. Perhaps you already have your own show and want to have an added extra to people who download your podcast. Another reason might be that you might be an

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author and want to sell more books, so you read a few pages to get a following. Or, you are an educator and want to send messages to students. Maybe you want a Podcast for any other reason you feel the need to get your voice out to the world.

Now that you know what your Podcast will be about, you now need to learn how to podcast. First, you must learn how to record an audio or video file and save or convert it to an .mp3 file. Secondly, you need to learn how to make an RSS file that will tell how to use your podcast when a person's program wants it. Third, you should now how to write the RSS file and then upload that and your .mp3 file. Lastly, you will want to know how to make sure everything is correct and that it will play when someone requests it. A popular program, like Audacity, can help you with your podcast. Now that you have done all that, a microphone is required so that you can record your voice. Now you can record your audio for your podcast. Afterwards, you need to save it and remember what you titled it as. Now is the time to create an RSS file, which is basically a text file with the .rss extension. After you create an RSS file, you need to have a server to upload it to. For many people, their websites are an ideal server.

Now, after all of that is completed, you have to make sure that you correctly wrote your RSS file. Don't worry because this is the easy part. Go to http://rss.scripting.com/. Here, you will type in the exact address where you uploaded your podcast (your server). Then, you simply push the Validate

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button and it will come back saying if you correctly wrote your RSS file or not. If it comes back saying it was correct, you can now send your podcast out to anyone who wants it.

Podcasts have become popular because it allows anyone to run their own radio station, or something similar, without the hassle of expensive hardware. Many like podcasts because it gives them a certain intimacy with people that otherwise could not have been achieved. The iTunes Music Store offers thousands of podcasts on many subjects. With the number of people who own iPods or any other mp3 player for that matter, your podcast has the chance of reaching hundreds of thousands of people. And with podcasts, you are not constricted by the FCC regulations. There is really no limit to what you can say! It's easy to get your podcast out into other people's view. Websites online list many podcasts available, one of those sites is www.Podcast.net. Here, people can easily browse through the different categories of podcasts and select which ones they would like to listen to; hopefully yours will be one of them. Now that you have successfully created your podcast and put it out for everyone to see, you can now sit back and relax while people are listening and/or watching what you have created.

Pointers for Podcasting

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To create audio content should be very easy, considering it can be anything you like at all. Music, audio books, or radio shows. There is no set method on how to compose audio content. Whatever the individual likes is what these shows should be in reference to. Depending on if you have a Mac or a PC, you will want to consider using GarageBand for the Mac user, or if you are a PC user, you will want to use Audacity. Both are excellent choices since they are powerful and seem to be very popular. The best part about both these programs is that there are both free.

When finished with your audio show you will want to save it at the highest quality in the original format of audio application. That way if you need to go back and do some editing, there will already be a good version saved. Once audio subject matter is finished, it should be saved in MP3 format. This is to all intents and purposes the standard format for podcasts. MP3 format seems to be the best format to stick with. It seems to be very universal and user friendly. Plus, if you go to any other format some users may not be able to use your podcast. And you want to make it available to as many people as possible.

Some suggested settings to use that offer superior outcomes that have minimum bit rate are as follows:

48 – 56k Mono – sermons, audio books, talk radio

64k + stereo – music, music & talk combinations

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128k stereo – good quality music

.mp3 file extension is how all these files should be saved.

In order to publish an MP3 file, you will need to save it to your web browser. It can then be tested on any MP3 player. It is easy to manage and find your files that you may want to put them all into a directory. These file can go anywhere on the site, but for convenience keeping them in the same directory seems to be the best in the long run.

Podcast feeds are RSS files that explain your podcast. They also contain information for each show. An RSS file is a text file that associates to MP3 files. Any text editor can be used to generate RSS news feed. Blogging programs really seem to be very popular right now with most podcasters. This automatically generates news feeds.

If you are have a blogging tool that lets you position enclosures, produce an item for each MP3 file that is available and use the URL of an audio content as an enclosure. If blogging tool does not maintain enclosures, do not worry. With the growing recognition of podcasts, there for sure soon will be one day.

For the time being, all of your editing of your RSS file can be done with any type of text editor to insert the enclosure tag. And you always want to make sure to save RSS file with the .rss or .xml extension. Generally, you will be looking for a news feed that holds all of your podcasts in the order from

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the newest to the oldest.

To publish your podcast news feed you will need to pass on your RSS file to your web server. Validate it using the RSS validator. If it is valid, it is ready to be published on the Internet. The last things you will really need to do are checking your podcast and publish it. There are several great podcasting logos out there so you will want to make sure you can find yours easily enough. With all of this said and done do not forget to ad your website to your podcast directory.

With the growing popularity of podcasting it seems to be catching on everywhere. It is becoming more common. No matter what it is for whether it is audio books, sermons or for educational purposes. Whatever the reason may be it seems to be one of the easiest forms of distributing information over the Internet so far.

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Chapter 5:Personalizing your ipod

Different Ways You Can Personalize your iPod

iPods are becoming extremely popular. More and more people are choosing personal audio players to provide them music while they are at work, at home, or at play. With so many ways to make them your own they can come up with a style that fits their personality and tastes.

For the fashion savvy, there are plenty of ways to make a fashion statement. Designer skins can prevent scratches to your equipment. Also known as tattoos, they come in a variety of colors and styles, and still allow access to all of the features. You can get bright colors, fun designs, or pictures. You can even get your corporate logo or zodiac sign. They are printed on self-adhesive vinyl, so you can still use your case and other accessories while they are on. Durable and long lasting, they keep their looks even with everyday use.

You can get stick on crystals to make your phone sparkle. They come in a variety of colors and shapes to give your iPod that extra "bling".

Carrying cases allow you to take your iPod with you where ever you go. They help protect your case from the elements, and even have the options of clips for easier portability.

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They protect your iPod from bumps and scratches while still allowing access to the features. They come in a variety of styles too, from silicon in a variety of colors to your basic black leather.

Armbands make your iPod portable. They are designed to hold you iPod in place on your upper arm. Often preferred by those who like to take their iPods with them while they exercise, armbands offer hands-free carrying and music listening. They come in a variety of colors and styles to fit your individual taste.

Neck straps allow for easy carrying of your iPod as well. With it always hanging around your neck it is within easy reach while still allowing your hands to be free for other things. They come in a variety of colors. They can also double as wrist straps or as cell phone holders.

Portable speakers are another way to personalize your iPod. From small speakers that offer maximum portability to large ones that offer rock your world sound, you can find a variety in your price range. They are perfect for the person who wants to share his play list with friends. Find them for a good price on www.ebay.com

For those who want to keep their music to themselves, headphones come in a variety as well. From tiny ear buds that fit into your ears to high-tech noise cancellation headphones your choices are endless. You can even get a Y splitter and share your music with a second set of

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earphones.

You even have a variety of chargers. When your iPod needs more juice, you can plug it in at home or on the road. Some chargers even offer the options of picking up FM radio signals and protective casings.

There is even a variety of things to plug into your iPod. From mechanical toys to alarm clocks to microphones nearly anything you can think of is available. You can get a connector for your digital camera to download and view photos while on the go.

Manufacturers are even coming up products that are "iPod friendly" to keep up with the iPod craze. Kolcraft has a stroller with an iPod pocket and Thomas Pink is making shirts with pockets big enough to hold an iPod or a commuter tie with a special iPod pocket hidden on the back. Backpacks, purses, and diaper bags are making bigger side pockets to accommodate them.

Of course, there is always the biggest thing that separates your iPod from everyone else's- what you put on it. From podcasts to movies to music the selection is endless. What most people like about an iPod compared to other forms of music is the variety. You can mix hip hop and country, classical and alternative, polka and heavy metal. Not even satellite radio can top that. You can download the hottest new released movie or your favorite television reruns. You can even listen to the latest news.

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With all of these options, it is no wonder that iPods are one of the most popular new gadgets out there. And with so many ways to personalize them, you can definitely find one that fits your unique styles and tastes.

Top Tips to Choosing your iPod Accessories

If you are not a computer genius, the acquisition of another electronic device like the iPod can seem daunting. What do all these buttons mean and do I really have to read that computer jargon user's guide? Plus, the iPod range of products is a whole other dimension. Which of these accessories do you really need? Which really serve a purpose and which are just bling for your pocket gadget?

The large accessories market that has built up around the iPod is sometimes described as the iPod ecosystem. Many companies make accessories that are made to work side by side with your iPod. These include JBL, Bose, Altec, Lansing, and Kensington who make speakers that are designed specifically to work with the iPod, using the iPod's thirty pin dock connector. Other companies make add-ons that allow the iPod to record sound, recharge "on the go", play music over the radio, or be used wirelessly with a remote.

Besides technological peripherals there are also cases. People buy these accessories not only to protect their iPods but also to make fashion statements. Fashionista specialists make

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these cases. Some are silicone while others are hard plastic. Apple makes some too. Along with the introduction of the nano Apple introduced nano tubes (a pun on nanotubes), a silicone case with no screen, dock connector, or headphone port protection, but a cover over the click wheel and the hold switch.

Accessories for the iPod have been added to the skiing and snowboarding industry. Burton Snowboards have developed a jacket and a backpack with Softouch. This is a panel on a jacket sleeve or on a backpack strap that allows the user to control his song selection from that panel. It makes use of the iPod in the outdoors much more convenient.

The iPod's design is also a part of this ecosystem. Some sites have parts of their sites devoted to iPod concepts, things varying from completely touch screen iPods to iPods that include an integrated mobile phone.

On the market now is a new-wired remote control for the 5th Generation iPod and iPod nano. Named "iPod radio remote", it uses an iPod Shuffle-like interface to control these iPods. It also adds radio-tuning capability, with station details being displayed on the iPod screen. Support for this accessory was added in iPod firmware 1.1. The remote is connected via the iPod dock connector (as the remote port seen on previous iPods is not included on the 5th generation iPod or iPod nano), and includes a shorter pair of apple headphones to reduce clutter.

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iPod docked on an iPod Hi-Fi with its speaker grill off and an Apple Remote lying beside it. The iPod Hi Fi is for immediate sale at the price of $349. The iPod Hi-Fi is an amplified loudspeaker system that docks with the iPod. The dimensions of the Hi-Fi are 17" x 6.6" x "6.9". The unit can either be plugged into the wall or run on D cell batteries. The Hi-Fi weighs slightly under 17 pounds. Integrated carrying handles allow for easier transportation of the Hi-Fi. The Hi-Fi utilizes two 80-mm wide-range cones and one 130-mm woofer cone. The Apple Leather Case for iPod is a handmade, Italian leather case, which is serious bling for your iPod. The cases come in three models (30GB, 60GB, and iPod nano). They retail for $99, which has been classified by many as "highly overpriced." Though previously there has been some off-brand merchandise that had iPod docking radio stations that worked the same way as the iPod Hi-Fi.

BMW released the first iPod automobile interface to come from an automotive company. The interface allowed drivers of late-model BMW vehicles to control their iPod through the built-in steering wheel controls and the radio head unit buttons. The iPod attached to a cable harness in the car's glove compartment and allowed the driver to create up to five unique "BMW playlists" that were displayed through the vehicle's radio head unit. Many car dealers will be integrating their car stereos with iPod soon. More than thirty percent of the cars in the United States now include iPod support. Honda will be the first to include speech-to-text capabilities that allow drivers to search for playlists, artist

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and album names or genre.

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Chapter 6:Troubleshooting tips for your ipod

Tips to try when your iPod acts Weird

The iPod is probably one of the handiest little inventions out there. It is so compact and portable you can take your music, pictures and videos almost anywhere. iPod is basically a small computer. In addition, as with all computers they all have their moments and can be very temperamental. At such times you may have to treat your iPod like a small computer when you encounter any sort of problems. When you are trying to troubleshoot a computer, you start with the simplest solution first. This is always the best way to approach any problem. The easiest way is to reset the iPod like your would reboot a computer. Most of the time, this will solve your problem and be the quickest and easiest solution. Thinking of the simplest solution and trying them first may save time down the road.

Of course just turning something on and off is not all ways the solution. Another problem that seems to arise with iPods is software. A lot of problems seem to be instigated by software that is not updated or may not be right for the model iPod you may have. Always double-check the software. To head off further problems in the future, always make sure you have the most recent updated revision of the type of software that you need. There may have been some bugs that were worked out and better features in the new

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software.

The hard drive is another thing that may need troubleshooting from time to time. One nice feature of the iPod is if there is a problem or errors, it will automatically begin to run a disk scan utility that is built in. On the screen, there will be a magnifying glass icon while this is in process. For the whole disk scan to run will take about 20 minutes. When it is done a different icon will appear on the screen indicating that everything should be in working order on your iPod's hard drive. If for some reason the disk scan process fails, don't panic. This does not mean that the hard drive is bad or not working, it just means the scan disk just did not work this time. But, it will run again the next time iPod is turned on. The good news is that it may be able to fix the problem then.

When the scan disk has found any problems, it will fix them automatically. However, when the scan disk has repaired the problem, you may need to restore your iPod with iPod software updater. Before you do this, you may want to backup any files that are on the iPod. Anything that is on the iPod will be lost. This updater software can be found on Apples website. The iPod will indicate with icons the scans results. If there are any icons you may not be familiar with the owner's manual will come in handy at this point for more assistance.

Battery problems can also be another issue that may make your iPod act weird. There are a few tips to try to get the

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most listening time out of one battery charge and to keep your iPod from acting weird.

Software should always be the most current version that is available to you. This is mentioned more at the beginning of this article, but cannot be stressed enough. Not having the right software can cause problems. You will also want use good headphones. This way you will not need the volume so loud, which can be a big drain on the battery. Also is not really good on your hearing. Avoid using the unnecessary settings like backlighting, the clock & alarm functions. Try to have them off. Use smaller song files so iPod does not work as hard playing songs.

Other ways to help your iPod function properly is to avoid using menu buttons as much as possible. This make the hard drive worked harder which is also a big drain on the battery. Always try and keep the hold switch on so if your iPod is accidentally bumped it will not play continuously until battery is dead. Also make sure repeat mode is off. For some reason your iPod won't mount on your computer or will not take a charge, the battery may need to be completely drained. To do this just do not use if for 24 hours and then try charging it.

If you use your iPod a lot and it is over 18 months old. There is a good chance the battery is probably dead. Contact Apple and they may replace it for $99. Otherwise, there are third parties that will sell new batteries, the tools you will need to put it in and the instructions on how to do this. If an

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icon of a power adaptor and a wall plug in appear on the screen the iPod needs to be plugged into a power outlet. This will usually happen after the iPod has been restored. The iPod needs to update its firmware. This may happen if the iPod has been plugged into a USB port or un-powered Fire Wire port.

After using the iPod for 10 minutes and the screen gets dark and the back gets hot, this is called "The Black Screen of Death" This cannot be fixed. This is considered defective and should be returned to Apple right away for a new one. Hopefully these few tips will keep your iPod from acting weird and running smoothly.

What to Do when your iPod Gets Waterlogged

People around the world have discovered the portability of the MacIntosh iPod . There is no other device on the market today where you can download so many songs and videos in such a small space. Both children and adults love taking their music on the go. Because of their extreme popularity, iPod users are now transporting their music while they are walking, jogging, hanging out with friends, and even snowboarding. You can see how easy it would be to drop the small device when you are hanging out near the pool or when you are relaxing at the lake.

iPods are the electronic gadgets that fit into your pocket and have the ability to hold 15,000 songs, 25,000 photos, and

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150 video hours all at your fingertips. With iPods, you can hear and see your favorite music and videos from a 2.5" color screen. As with any electronic device, things do go awry at times. Are you one of the many iPod users who have dropped your beloved into the toilet or had it fall in the bathroom sink while you were brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face and hands? Maybe you were be-bopping under your umbrella on a rainy day and your iPod fell into a puddle. You may ask yourself, "Is my iPod forever ruined or can it be saved?" Well, it depends on the severity but in most cases, a waterlogged iPod can be restored with a few simple strategies, parts, and repairs.

First, you must remove your iPod from the water source, such as the lake or toilet, and turn off the power supply. You don't want a nasty electric shock and a damaged iPod. It is also a good idea to let your waterlogged iPod completely dry out before trying to revive it. To dry out your iPod, place it in a protective wrap such as a towel or piece of fabric and put it near a moderate heat source, like a sunny window, or in a warm room. Wait at least two days to give your iPod ample drying time. If you can bear to be without your iPod for longer than two days, you may have a better chance of reviving it. More time spent drying out, may get your iPod up and running faster and keep it running without much ado. After you are relatively sure your iPod has dried out, give the power switch a try. Not so good signs are the Folder or Sad Face icon popping up, but experts recommend that you attempt to erase and restore your waterlogged iPod.

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To erase and restore your iPod, you will need to go to “My Computer” from your Desktop and then select “iPod”, which should be located next to your C drive. Right click and choose “Format”. Now choose “FAT 32” and <Format> and reboot your computer. Erasing and restoring your iPod may be the solution if your hard drive was the main part affected by the water. If this procedure does not solve the problem, you may need to replace parts. You can call a specialty repair service or contact the manufacturer for an estimate on parts and repairs.

Now, learn from your bad luck or honest mistake. Why not try some of the waterproof tools and accessories on the market before you have to go through this again? With these, you can take your iPod with you in the shower, gym, on a jog, and just about anywhere. A Company called OtterBox offers a waterproof case that allows you to take your iPod anywhere that otherwise would cause short circuits. The waterproof cases can withstand dog drool, a round of golf, and carefree singing in the shower. Reviews for their products have been outstanding! The OtterBox for iPod Nano will keep your iPod safe and dry when you’re lying on the beech or snowboarding in a halfpipe! Another outfit called RazorReef offers waterproof cases, headphones, and armbands as well as neoprene swim belts. You can take your iPod virtually anywhere with waterproof cases and accessories and be worry-free with your tunes and videos.

And, you can always take it any Apple store and “recycle” your waterlogged iPod. This is also good for a 10% discount

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on a new iPod.

Tips to Thaw out Your Frozen iPod

No matter what your music preference may be, whether it is country, rock, heavy metal or even classical music, the latest electronic gizmo to be listening to any type of music on is the iPod. Weighing less than 5 ounces and being extremely compact makes this the perfect electronic device, or better yet, electronic companion, for almost any activity.

The newer model of iPods that are out on the market have 30 GB of hard drive space, which means it can store up to 7,500 songs, 25,000 photos or 1,000 videos. With its 2.5" color LCD screen, it makes playback of your favorite videos possible almost anywhere you are. This makes it almost perfect to take anywhere at any time and not have to worry about bringing along CD's, DVDs, or any other extras.

But along with the good, you must expect the bad. Convenience and technology are not always best of friends. With so much convenience in such a small compact gizmo, you have to expect the unexpected. Have you ever had your iPod freeze up right in the middle of your favorite song? With today's technology as superior as it is, there are still some occasional glitches. With the help of these few simple tips, those disastrous moments can be a simple toggle of a button and you'll be back to listening to your music or watching videos in no time. Here are a few quick tips on

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how to cope and thaw out your frozen iPod if this ever unfortunately happens to you.

First of all, you need to know exactly which model you have. With all the many different styles and models that are available, the steps to reset may vary depending on which model you own.

Next, check your screen. If there is a lock symbol on the screen that means your “hold” switch is in the locked position. If it is, slide the “hold” switch to the unlocked position and double check the screen to see if the symbol is still on.

If the iPod is being used as a hard drive, the screen will show “do not disconnect” until ready to eject iPod in iTunes or from Mac OS. Learn how to eject and disconnect the iPod from the computer to avoid the iPod freezing up. If the iPod isn’t set up to be used as a hard disk, to disconnect it simply unplug it.

However, if the iPod is being used as a hard disk, before disconnecting it from the computer you have to eject it. There will be an icon in the Finder or in My Computer if iPod is being used as a hard disk.

Directions on how to eject iPod:

Click iPod in the iTunes source list.

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Select the Eject button in bottom right corner of the window. This eject button appears after you click on the iPod at the Source list.

A message will appear on your iPod screen when you have successfully ejected your iPod. Once you have seen this message on the screen, it is safe to disconnect from it.

Always eject first before disconnecting iPod from your computer. This is very important because your files can be damaged on the computer and the iPod if you don't follow this order.

Here are some further actions that can be taken if above steps don't resolve your problems:

To reset iPod with Scroll Wheel and iPod with Touch Wheel

Connect iPod to power adaptor and plug into an outlet or connect iPod to Mac's built in FireWire port.

Press the Hold switch on & off.

For about 6 to 10 seconds press and hold Play/Pause and the menu button until the Apple logo can be seen on the screen. Repeat these steps if necessary.

To reset iPod with Circle Wheel

Connect iPod to power adaptor and plug into an outlet.

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Press the Hold switch on & off.

For about 6 to 10 seconds press and hold play/pause and the menu button until the Apple log can be seen on the screen. Repeat these steps if necessary.

To reset an iPod with a Click Wheel

Press the Hold switch on and off.

Press and hold for about 6 to 10 seconds the menu and select buttons until the Apple logo appears on the display screen.

If resetting your iPod is still difficult, try setting it on a flat service. Press the Select button making sure that the click wheel is not being touched at all. Also when pressing the Menu button, make sure that it is not being pressed toward the center of the click wheel.

Hopefully all the given advice above should help clear up any glitches you may encounter with your iPod.

Tricks to Try when Diagnosing your Sick iPod

What should you do when your iPod freezes or you frequently see the Sad Face icon appearing on your screen? Do you run to the nearest computer guru or iPod geek and

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shell out cash that you don't have? Why not learn how to fix some of these yourself?

There are several diagnostic tests you can do to see if your iPod has a hardware problem. It is nice to turn to the built-in Diagnostic Mode on your iPod to check for hardware problems. First, you need to restart your iPod and then put it in Diagnostic Mode. Make sure the hold switch has been turned off. You can do this by pushing the switch away from the headphone jack. Jiggle it on and off to be sure. To reset your iPod, you will need to press and hold a few buttons at the same time for about 10 seconds. Hold the "Menu" and "Play/Pause" buttons down if your iPod is 1G to 3G. If you have the iPod 4G, you will need to press and hold "Menu" and "Select". If your iPod has been reset, you should see the Apple logo and feel the spinning of the hard drive. Now, press and hold these buttons: "REW", "FFW" and "Select" for iPod 1G to 3G and "Back" and "Select" for the iPod 4G. If your model is a 3G or above, you should hear a bird chirp sound and the Apple logo should pop up backwards. You have now reached the mecca of Diagnostic Mode. Keep in mind that your scroll wheel will not work when you are in this mode. Using "REW" and "FFW", you can look through the lists of tests to see which one you might need.

If your iPod is older, there are some tests you can run on 1G to 4G's. The 5 in 1 will run five separate tests at one time that include the LCM, SDRAM, RTC, FLASH/CHECKSUM. AMD FOREWORE/FW ID. For 3G iPods, you will hear a jingle

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when the test has completed. RESET will tell you if your iPod can reset. The AUDIO test will check the iPod audio subsystem. If you have a remote, the REMOTE will test it. Make sure your iPod is plugged in or you will get "RMT FAIL" on your screen. FIREARE will check the FireWire port. You want to see "FW PASS". SLEEP will give your iPod a rest but you will need to reset your system to revive it. To test your iPod's power, you will need to run the A 2 D test. You will get different outcomes based on where your iPod is getting its power from a battery or wall outlet. If your scroll wheel is giving you fits, run the I.OTPO CNT test. To make sure the screen is functioning properly, run the LCM test. You will need to keep holding down the "Select" button to have it run through several patterns. The RTC test will test the real time clock in your iPod. To test the iPod RAM memory, run the SDRAM test. If you need to find out what firmware version you have on your iPod, simply run the FLASH test. The OTPO or Wheel A2D will test the analog to digital input of your iPod's scroll wheel. After this test, you will need to reset your iPod. Want to know if you have a healthy hard drive? Do the HDD Scan. The RUN IN test will test the chip sets non-stop. After you have completed all necessary tests, you will need to reset your iPod to get it out of Diagnostic Mode.

The newer iPod test names are easier to understand and won't leave you looking for your nerd dictionary. The MEMORY test will test the SDRAM, IRAM, and FLASH memory. The SDRAM is the RAM memory test, which may take a few moments. You will want to see "SDRAM OK".

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The FLASH test will let you know where you iPod stands on flash memory. The Comms test will let you know how the ports are faring. You will know if your remote is not connected to your iPod if you get a NG, or no good result, for the HP, headphone-port. The Wheel test will test the key and wheel. The LCD test will test the colors, patterns, and gradients of your LCD. To test your hold switch, you will do the Headphone Detect test. When you own an iPod, you want to make sure that you have protected your investment. An iPod is not cheap, and neither are your music downloads. Keep your iPod in top working condition by learning a few things you can do at home instead of paying someone else to fix it.

Seven Tips to Avoid iPod repair

When spending a lot of money on pleasure components like an iPod, life gets a huge kink in it when iPod breaks down. Everyone knows the convenience of the iPod makes listening to music easy when doing practically anything. Instead of going out and buying

a new iPod, consider trying some other ideas. Here are some tips that may put the dance back in your step, letting you avoid repairing your iPod by a professional iPod repairman.

First, you should obviously use a hard protective case to

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avoid scratching the screen of your iPod. The hard cases are better because if you drop your iPod while in a hard case in water, your iPod is usually protected in up to three feet. Plus, if you drop your iPod, a hard case help protect your device from sustaining damage to it's internal devices, which are necessary for proper function, and external cosmetic damage to your iPod.

Second, Don't use your pockets, backpacks, or a purse to carry your iPod tunes. LDC screens are pliable under pressure, which is easily created if you bend down, sit down, sit on your backpack or purse or if you fall down. This will put pressure on your iPod, which can bend or crack your LCD screen. You might also think of your screen when left in your car such as extreme heat or cold.

Next, you should always avoid pulling, wrapping, or causing any other type of tension to the cord attached to your headphones. This can break your headphone sockets. Avoid letting your wires get tangled up when you are not using your iPod. You would not want a short in your headphone wires. It would also be totally inconvenient having to untangle your headphones each time you go to use them. Another tip is if your iPod does not boot up as it usually does, you might try charging it. Sometimes, when you're to low on juice your iPod can't boot up.

Also, when you buy your iPod, you could also purchase an extra battery and battery replacement kit. This is ideal for when your battery dies. You don't have to go anywhere to

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replace it. The average iPod battery takes about three hours to fully charge. What if your iPod won't shut down? You have checked that the hold switch is turned off, and you know your battery is fully charged, and then you need to reset your iPod, deplete your battery all the way, and then update your iPod.

Another tip is that you should also check for regular updates for your iPod, just like your home computer. You want it to continue to work properly. If the LDC screen on the front of your iPod shows a not so happy face, this means that you should check that the requirements for your iPod match your computer. If so, try to restore your iPod by putting it in disc mode and then restore. Remember restoring your iPod is not the same as updating. Make sure you back up your music files before you restore. To update plug your iPod into your computer and down load the newest version of iPod updater. You could try plugging your iPod into a different fire wire or USB port connecting to your computer. Then restart your computer, and reinstall your iPod or iTunes software.

To check your iPods hard drive for errors, run the scan disk feature. If the face with an upside down smile comes up then the problem can't be fixed at home.

Last, if you're constantly on the go, running, skating, dancing, and your iPod is always being jarred around, you

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might have a problem. Your iPod's internal protection function will come on, which will freeze your iPod up. Fix your frozen iPod, hold the select and the menu button at the same time. If you have an older iPod, hold the play button down for a few moments, which should repair your iPod issue.

These are only a few basic ways to avoid iPod repairs. For a more in-depth look into solutions, most companies have websites, which corresponds with the brand of iPod you own. If you iPod is still under warranty and you are still having problems, return your iPod to the manufacture that can exchange it for a new one.

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